

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF

# Bob Sikes Airport (CEW)

## *Aviation's Benefit for Florida*

Florida's economic well-being is intrinsically entwined with its vibrant airport system and its robust aviation industry. The aviation system in Florida allows the state to capitalize on an increasingly global marketplace. Aviation in Florida both sustains and leads economic growth and development. Airports in Florida are important economic engines, and support vital health, welfare, emergency, and safety-related services.

Florida's system of commercial service and general aviation airports are important to businesses throughout the state. Air travel is essential to tourism, Florida's number one industry. Protecting and investing in airports throughout Florida will support the aviation industry and the economic benefits described in this report. With continued support, Florida's dynamic aviation system will continue to provide a significant economic return in the years to come.

Florida Department of Transportation  
Aviation and Spaceports Office  
[www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation](http://www.dot.state.fl.us/aviation)



# Florida's Statewide Benefits from Aviation

Florida realizes significant annual economic benefits from aviation. The Florida Department of Transportation completed a comprehensive economic impact analysis to measure these benefits. Benefits measured in the FDOT study considered direct and indirect economic impacts and induced impacts that result from the multiplier effect. A summary of Florida's annual economic benefits from aviation follows:

Impact Category	 Total Employment	 Total Payroll (BILLIONS)	 Total Output (BILLIONS)
<b>AIRPORTS</b>			
VISITORS ARRIVING BY AIR	170,107	\$8.1	\$36.3
CONSTRUCTION AT AIRPORTS	765,225	\$20.7	\$67.2
MILITARY AVIATION	17,388	\$0.6	\$2.2
AIR CARGO	137,482	\$6.4	\$12.8
AVIATION EDUCATION	129,587	\$5.0	\$10.3
AVIATION BUSINESSES	11,891	\$0.5	\$1.0
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION	76,217	\$2.8	\$13.6
<b>TOTAL ANNUAL ECONOMIC BENEFITS</b>	4,534	\$0.4	\$0.6
	<b>1,312,431</b>	<b>\$44.5</b>	<b>\$144.0</b>

## Bob Sikes Airport

Located in Okaloosa County, approximately 25 miles north of Destin, Bob Sikes Airport serves many types of general aviation and military activities. With its single 8,004-foot runway, the airport can accommodate large military transport aircraft such as the U.S. Air Force Boeing C-17. This aircraft is used to deliver helicopters to L-3 Crestview Aerospace, a defense contractor and the airport's largest tenant. The airport's terminal is ideal for serving local users as well as those visiting the area.

Since Bob Sikes Airport has an instrument landing system (ILS), the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy use the airport for extensive flight training. In addition, the airport supports corporate aviation activity, recreational flights, flight training, and emergency medical aircraft operations on a regular basis. The airport with its tenants is one of the largest employers in the region. In addition to L-3 Crestview Aerospace, other major on-airport tenants include defense contractors BAE Systems and Tepper Aviation. All of the airport's operations and tenants are important to the airport's revenue streams and economic impact.

The annual economic impact of Bob Sikes Airport is associated with direct impacts that come from its tenants located at the airport and construction projects that are undertaken by the airport or its tenants. Indirect impacts are associated with spending from visitors who arrive in the area via general aviation aircraft.

